



## Mary Lesnjak

June 1, 1922 - August 14, 2012

Mary Lesnjak

RACINE – Mary (nee: Topalian) Lesnjak, passed away on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 from complications of old age, surrounded by the tremendous love and caring of her family and friends. She had a remarkable life, passing through 90 years of history.

Mary was born the second of four daughters, on June 1, 1922, to Mihran and Zartar (nee: Gulabian) Topalian. She grew up on both the south side and north side of Racine graduating from Park High School in 1941.

She met the love of her life, John Lesnjak, and began married life with her carpenter husband on October 17, 1942. The couple moved through several homes John built, and finally settled for good in their home on Spring Street, also built by John.

Mary worked as a grocery clerk at Chopyak's, then as an assembler for many years at Hamilton Beach and at InSinkErator. She and John were a part of a large group of friends who went ballroom dancing and square-dancing (Badger Squares). Even later in life, John and Mary could easily dance away an evening without tiring; it was their greatest pleasure and hobby. The Lesnjaks' News Years Eve dance party held in their basement rec room was the much anticipated highlight of the year for John, Mary and their many friends.

Mary was famous for her fabulous cooking, making favorite Armenian and American dishes for family, friends and guests, and her hospitality was

unmatched.

Mary was proud of her home and it reflected her good taste and sense of style. She enhanced it with her hand crocheted afghans, lovingly crafted for her children and grandchildren as well as for her home. She was very involved over many years with the Women's Guild at St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church and was a member of the church kitchen team making many of the wonderful treats served at Armenian Fest and other events.

She cared deeply for her husband, John, and they had a lifetime of fun together. They took delight in cruises and trips to Hawaii, always to somewhere warm. She missed John deeply after he passed away in 1999. She was also preceded in death by her parents and her three sisters, Mazzie Mazmanian, Helen (Robert) Getzin and Rose (Omer) Witte.

Mary's sons, Jon (Diana) and James (Amy) were the delight of her life, and she took great pride in her sons and their families. She adored being Grandma Lesnjak to her grandchildren: Sean Lesnjak, Ryan (Misty) Lesnjak, Greg (Aura) Lesnjak, Rachel (Peter) Duchac, Jason (Emily) Kuiper and Andrew Rosenberg. She was delighted later in life to see and know her great grandchildren: Daniel Kaprelian, Jon and Tommy Lesnjak, Molly and Lou Duchac. She had a special relationship with her niece, Jan Mazmanian, whose loving visits and outings were a great comfort and joy to her. Mary will also be missed by her close circle of lifelong friends.

Right to the end of her life, Mary never lost her gentle and humorous personality or her wonderful sense of hospitality. In her final years she received excellent and compassionate care at Harmony Assisted Living and at Ridgewood Care Center. She is now released, finally, to join John once again, to happily dance away eternity.

Services for Mary Lesnjak will be at St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, 4605 Erie St. on Friday, August 17, 2012 at 11 a.m. Friends may meet with the family at the church at 10 a.m. until time of service.

In lieu of flowers or plants, memorials may be made to St. Mesrob Church.



# Cemetery Details

## Graceland Cemetery

Racine, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church  
4605 Erie Street  
Racine, WI

## Funeral Service

AUG 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church  
4605 Erie Street  
Racine, WI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sturino Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Lesnjak*



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**Sturino Funeral Home** - August 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM